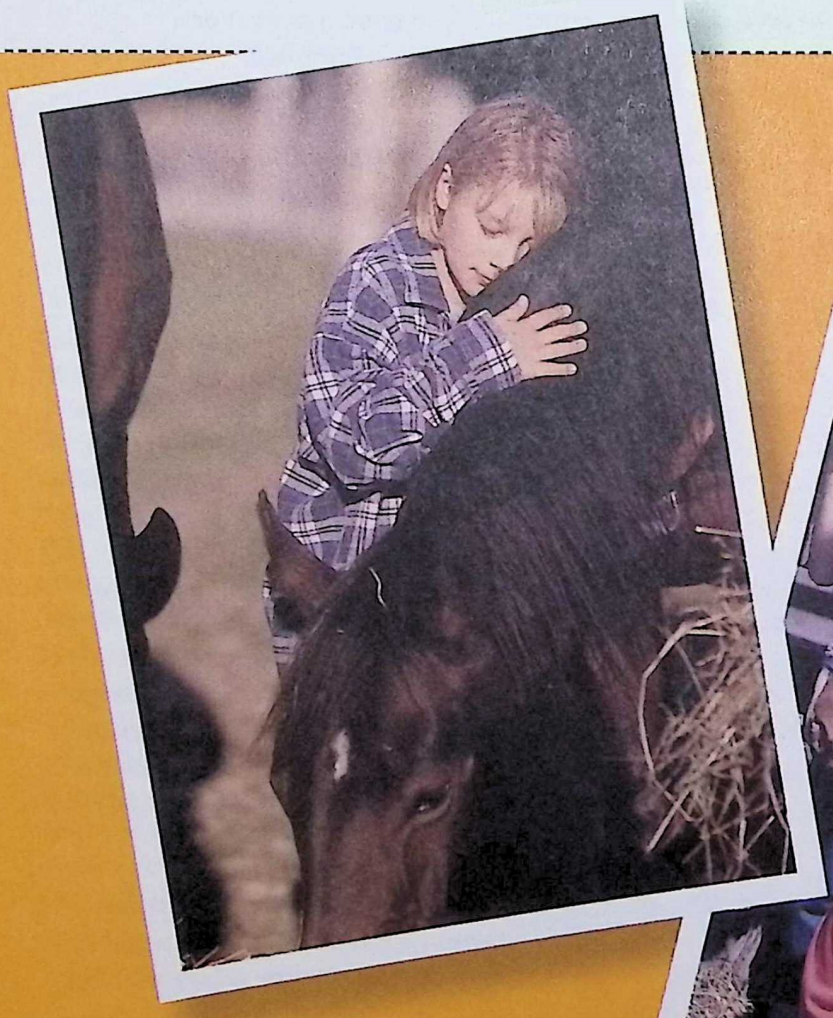
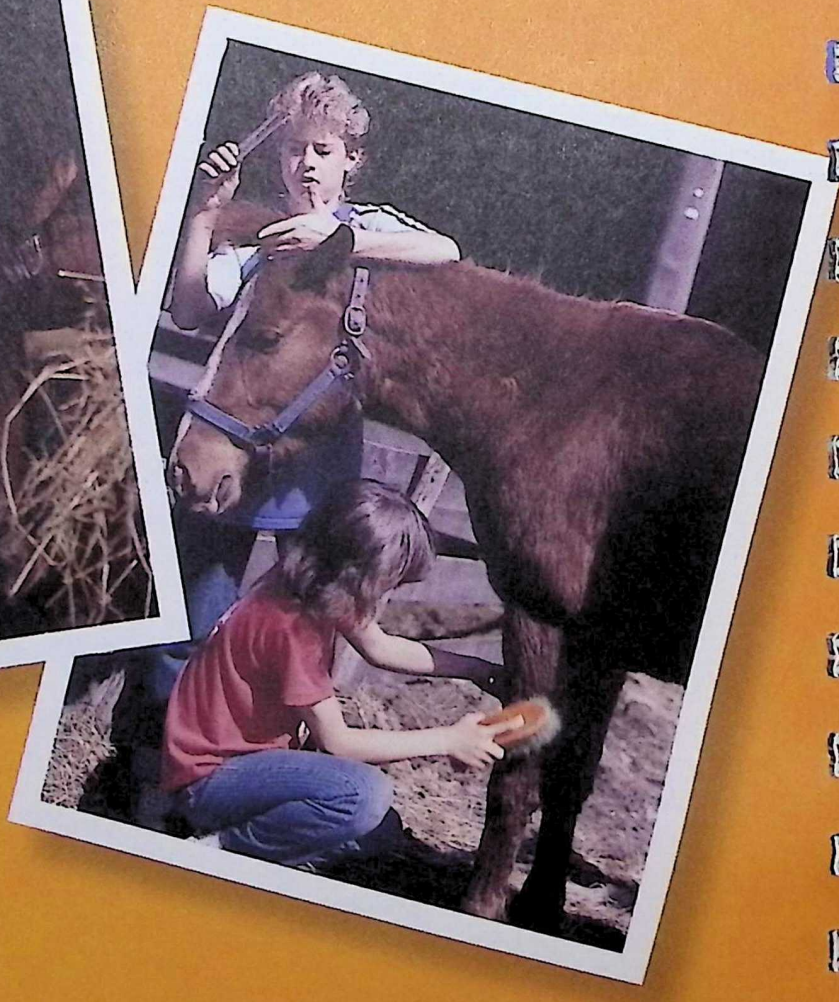
Horse Fan



Horses are majestic and graceful animals. Some people keep them as pets. Others use them to farm. Still more ride them in parades, festivals, and sporting events. If the sound of a neigh makes your day, this badge is for you.





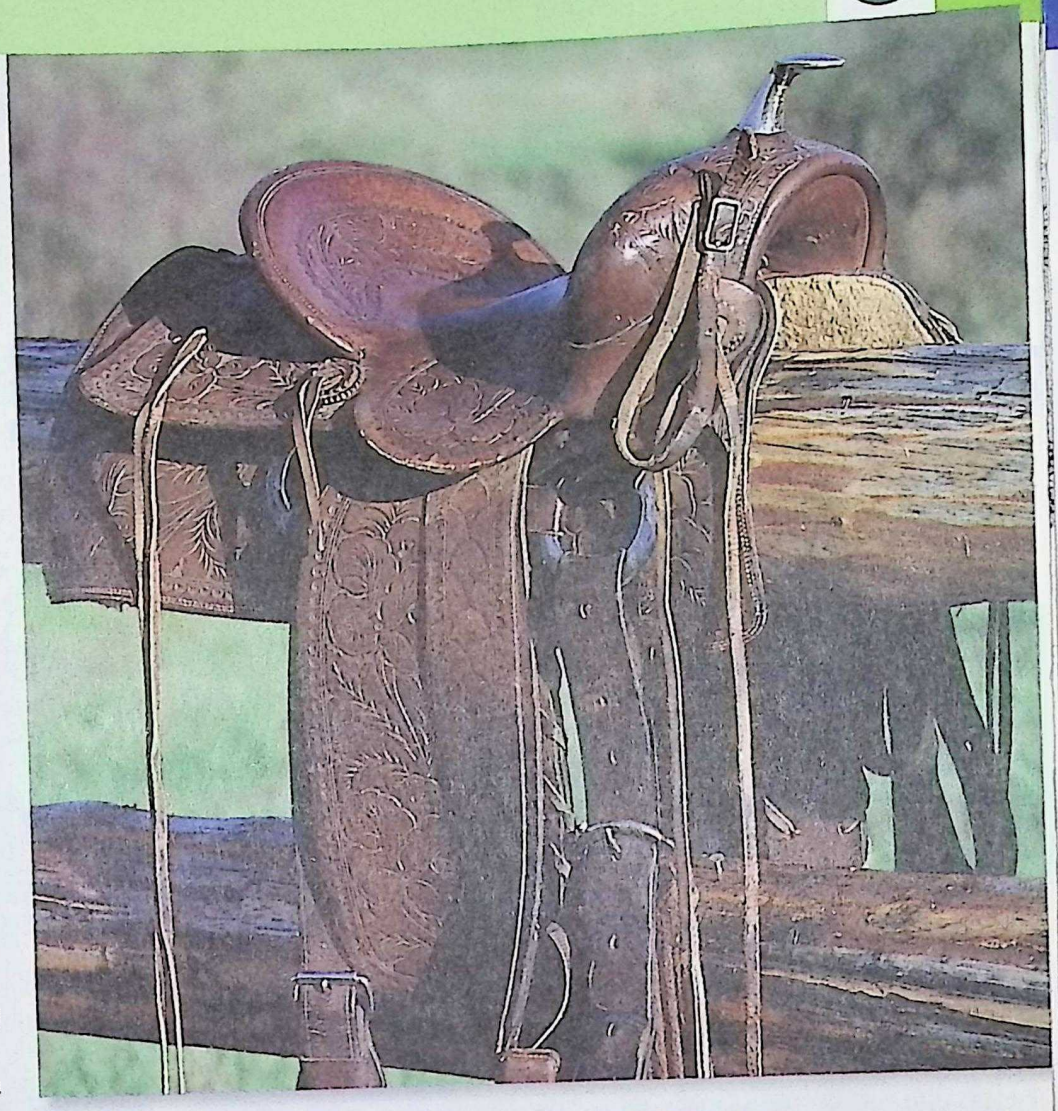
1. On the Trail
Find out where you can ride horses in your community. Ask each group or facility how much it charges for membership, riding, or riding lessons. Find out whether its specialty is English or Western riding. Find out which groups provide instructions, which require you to own your own horse, which have indoor and outdoor rings, and which have riding trails.

2. Caring for Horses
Visit a stable. Find out from the owner or manager what is involved in the care of a horse. Find out how much and what kind of food a horse needs daily, acceptable treats for horses, everyday care in a stable, and how often a horse needs to be shod and why. If possible, watch while a farrier pulls and resets a shoe.

3. Fashion and Function
Show the correct and safe clothing for horse shows, Western trail rides, and your group's equestrian activities. You can model the clothes yourself, or use pictures. Point out to others the safety features to look for in the footwear, pants, jackets, and safety hat you wear when riding.

4. Horses Through History
Make an illustrated booklet about the history and development of the horse. To do this you can draw your own pictures or use photographs that you find in magazines and other places. Be able to point out and name the principal parts of a horse.

5. Song of the Horse
Listen to cowboy ballads and teach one to your troop.



6. Make a Career of Riding
There are many careers associated with horses. Explore at least three of them. You might begin by finding out the type of training and experience your instructor needed before she could begin to teach others, for example.

7. Ease with Equipment
Learn the parts of a saddle and a bridle. Find out how each part contributes to the comfort of the horse and rider. Learn how to take care of a saddle and a bridle and how to keep them in good repair. If possible, assist with the saddling and bridling of a horse.

8. Horse "Tales"
Learn about famous or legendary horses. Tell a horse story to your troop or another group.

9. Horse Stories
Read one or more books about horses. These might include books on horsemanship, information on related careers, stories about famous horses, or stories of adventure on horseback.

10. Showing Off
Attend a horsemanship event at camp. Can't find one close by? Then watch a live or televised performance by show riders, such as a rodeo, a local horse show, or a draft-horse pulling contest.